

Members:

Rep. Sheila Klinker, Chair
Rep. Robert Alderman
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Rose Ann Antich



Lay Members

Sylvia Brantley
Christopher Durcholz
Suda Hopkins
Sally Lowery
Dr. Joanne Rains
Thomas VanMeter
Betty Williams

LSA Staff:

Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Carrie Cloud, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: P.L. 245-1997

INDIANA COMMISSION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**Legislative Services Agency
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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: December 8, 1998
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 5

Members Present: Rep. Sheila Klinker, Chair; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sylvia Brantley; Thomas VanMeter; Sally Lowery; Suda Hopkins; Dr. Joanne Rains; Betty Williams; Christopher Durcholz.

Members Absent: Rep. Robert Alderman; Sen. Rose Ann Antich.

Representative Klinker called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M. Representative Klinker introduced Ms. Deb Browning.

Deb Browning, Parent

Ms. Browning stated that at the age of six her daughter was diagnosed with visual disabilities. Her daughter began vision therapy at the age of nine. Ms. Browning stated that the only thing worse than finding out that your child has a disability is to hear that there are no resources to help in treating the child's disability. She stated that her daughter underwent vision therapy for 10 weeks at \$100 per week. The family received no reimbursement for the cost of the therapy.

Ms. Browning stated that 1 out of 4 children are affected by a special vision problem and that 70% of juvenile delinquents have a special vision problem.

Ms. Browning stated that the vision screening done by schools is not enough. She added that the vision screenings do not look at how a student's eyes work together and focusing and refocusing issues. She stated that schools need to test vision more thoroughly and that schools need to be mandated to perform more thorough vision screening. She also stated that there is a need at the schools to have people who have the necessary training, such as behavioral optometrist, to detect vision disabilities. Ms. Browning suggested setting up a pilot program in a few counties that would conduct vision screenings.

Ms. Browning stated that in federal Article 507 as long as an individual's eye sight is correctable to 20/20 the individual does not have a disability. She stated that she would like to see visual disabilities included in Article 507 for those families who cannot afford to pay for needed services.

Preliminary Drafts

The following preliminary drafts (PD) were summarized by Carrie Cloud, Attorney for the Commission, and discussed by the Commission:

PD 3978 - This preliminary draft would appropriate \$75 million in FY 2000 and \$86 million in FY 2001 to provide services to the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled. The appropriations would be an increase in funding in FY 2000 of \$14 million and an increase of \$25 million in FY 2001. The Commission voted to recommend to the General Assembly **PD 3978** by a vote of 9 to 0.

PD 3964 - The preliminary draft requires the Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services to establish a program to monitor and assure quality assurance in the delivery of services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The preliminary draft also establishes an Indiana Quality Assurance Council and requires the Council to study issues relating to the delivery of services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The Commission voted to recommend to the General Assembly **PD 3964** by a vote of 9 to 0.

PD 3971 - The preliminary draft requires the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning to apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for approval to permit Indiana to allow Area Agencies on Aging to authorize the expenditure of Medicaid funds for individuals who are eligible for a Medicaid waiver. The Commission voted to recommend to the General Assembly **PD 3971** as amended by a vote of 9 to 0.

PD 3392 - This preliminary draft would appropriate \$2 million a year to the Emergency Support Fund. The Emergency Support Fund is used to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities in a crisis situation. The Commission voted to recommend to the General Assembly **PD 3392** by a vote of 9 to 0.

PD 3611 - The preliminary draft establishes a statewide waiver ombudsman program for individuals with waivers under the federal home and community based services program. The Commission voted to recommend to the General Assembly **PD 3611** as amended by a vote of 8 to 1.

Other Business

The Commission unanimously approved the draft final report by voice vote.

There being no further business, Representative Klinker adjourned the meeting.